REMARKS

In the office action, Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holroyd et al. (5,781,435).

Independent claim 1 has been previously amended to recites as follows:

> "...at least one input processing means **having a first processing means** ...
>
> at least one output processing means **having a second processing means** ...
>
> switching means **having a third processing means** ...
>
> selecting means for receiving said number of commands from said at least one input processing means and for interpreting said number of commands,
>
> wherein said **third processing means controls said first processing means and said second processing means**, and

It is respectfully submitted that Holroyd as applied by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely "Holroyd") does not appear to disclose the above-identified features of amended claim 1. That is, Holroyd does not appear to disclose an input processing means, output processing means, and switching means having a first, second, and third processing means. In the office action the Examiner alleges that Holroyd teaches three processing means, however, the Examiner fails to demonstrate each of these separate processing means. The only definitive "processor" described by Holroyd is element 12 of Fig. 1, labelled "processor."

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner states in paragraph 1 that "it is well known ...that the analog signals from the VTR 28 shown in Fig. 1 must be digitized in order to be processed by the processor 12. Such digitation requires a processor." However, the specification of Holroyd expressly refutes the Examiner's statement where it is stated that "the

processor unit 12 perform[s] the digitization of the selected shots in the background simultaneously." See Col 2, lns. 60-64. As such, contrary to the Examiner's suggestion, there is no separate processor required for the data from VTR 28 to be processed by the processor 12.

Next, in paragraph 3, at the third bullet point, the Examiner asserts that "[t]he ability to select a format for the output requires a processing means to provide the format change," and therefore Holroyd allegedly teaches a second processing means. While it may be true that the ability to select a format for output requires a processor, contrary to the Examiner's assertion there is no separate processor provided in Holroyd for such a conversion, rather all of the outputs in the cited reference appear to come from the processor 12, as shown in Fig. 1. This is the same processor 12 that is used to digitize the data, discussed above.

Further, the Examiner again relies on the processor 12 as allegedly teaching the "third processor" which according to claim 1 of the instant application is used in conjunction with a switching means.

But, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, and as the Examiner himself finds, there is only a single processor shown in Holroyd, and not three processing means as required by claim 1 of the instant application.

Still further, it is submitted that since Holroyd teaches only a single processor it is incapable, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, of teaching a device where the "third processing means controls said first processing means and said second processing means." The portion of Holroyd's specification relied upon by the Examiner actually supports this conclusion as there is no teaching there of three separate processing means, rather everything is routed through the single processor 12.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Holroyd does not teach input processing means, output processing means, and switching means having a first, second, and third processing means, respectively. Rather, Holroyd provides only a single processor 12.

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, independent claims 8 and 9 are believed to be distinguishable from Holroyd.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from Holroyd for at least the reasons previously described.

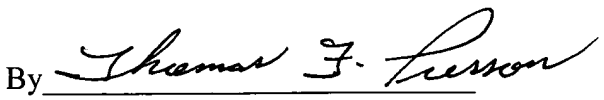
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800